

Kawasaki establishes its first aerostructures production line in U.S.

January 5, 2016 - Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd. announces that it will establish a production line to manufacture cargo doors for Boeing's 777X airplane at Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corp., U.S.A. (KMM), a Kawasaki subsidiary located in Lincoln, Nebraska. This is the first time for Kawasaki to establish an aerostructures production line in the U.S. The production equipment is scheduled for installation in a work area of about 30,100 square feet in the existing factory prior to March 2017. Production operations will start in May 2017.

The state-of-the-art 777X is the newest member of Boeing's bestselling 777 family, the market-leading twin-engine large passenger airplane. Production at Boeing is set to begin in 2017, with the first delivery targeted for 2020.

Kawasaki is engaging in the development and manufacturing of forward and mid fuselage panels, main landing gear wells, pressure bulkheads and cargo doors for the 777X. For the production work of the cargo door at the Lincoln factory, Kawasaki will use an automated riveting machine and an in-house developed painting robot to enhance the automation and speed of production and ensure high quality, thereby increasing the efficiency in production.

The Lincoln factory began producing motorcycles in 1974, as a factory of Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. (and was later independently incorporated as KMM in 1981). The factory currently produces, among others: all-terrain vehicles, the Jet Ski^{*1} personal watercraft, and railway vehicles. The factory has introduced the Kawasaki Production Systems (KPS) ^{*2}, Kawasaki's original production system developed through mass-production activities over many years. It will extend these systems to the production of aerostructures as well.

The steady growth in demand for new aircraft is anticipated to continue in the worldwide commercial airplane market. Taking this opportunity to establish an assembly line for the Boeing 777X's cargo doors, Kawasaki designates the Lincoln factory as its aerostructure manufacturing base in the U.S. and will actively pursue the expansion of its commercial aircraft business as well as the growth of KMM.

This September Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts met with Kawasaki leadership in Japan during his first trade mission to Asia. "Nebraska has benefited greatly from Kawasaki's presence in the state," said Governor Ricketts, "Kawasaki's decision to

expand operations in Nebraska demonstrates our competitive position in the global economy. These added jobs and investment will help grow the Nebraska economy and increase employment opportunities in our state.” Kawasaki appreciates its relationship with the State of Nebraska. Efforts by the state government, like Governor Ricketts’s visit to Kawasaki in Japan have helped strengthen that relationship and play a part in Kawasaki’s decision making when expanding its presence in Nebraska.

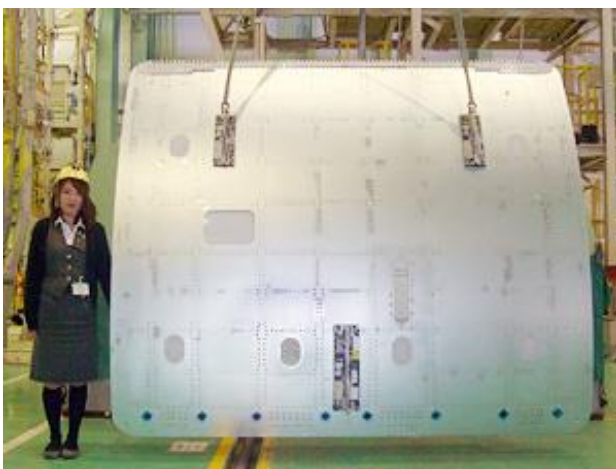
An Overview of Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corp., U.S.A.

Established	December 21, 1981
Location	Lincoln , Nebraska, United States
Capital	170 million USD (Wholly owned by Kawasaki)
Business	Production of: all-terrain vehicles, recreational utility vehicles, Jet Ski personal watercraft, all-purpose gasoline engines ^{*3} , and railway vehicles.

*1 Jet Ski is a registered trademark of Kawasaki Heavy Industries.

*2 The Kawasaki Production Systems (KPS)
Based on the Just In Time Systems, these systems use Kawasaki's proprietary logical production management techniques, which were developed and tested in-house by applying them on production lines, and which can be implemented in any production line, regardless of whether it is a mass-production or single-production line.

*3 Produced at the Maryville Plant in Missouri.



Cargo door for the Boeing 777



KMM Lincoln factory